

although the event occurred in the month of August, it was really the first Thanksgiving Day observed in the valley. It partook of the nature of a harvest festival. It reads: "August 10th, 1848, we held a public feast under a bowery in the center of our Fort. This was called a harvest feast. We partook freely of the rich variety of bread, beef, butter, cheese, cakes, pastry and green corn, melons and almost every variety of vegetable. Large sheaves of wheat, rye and barley were hoisted on poles for public exhibition. There was prayer and thanksgiving, congratulations, songs, speeches, music and dancing, and smiling faces and merry hearts. In short, it was a great day with the people of these valleys, and long to be remembered by those who had suffered and waited anxiously for the results of a first effort to redeem the interior deserts of America, and to make here hitherto unbroken solitudes blossom like a rose."

Friday, December 19, 1851. President Young approved the proclamation prepared by Thomas Bullock and the same was taken to the printing office.

"Territory of Utah, proclamation for a day of praise and thanksgiving. It having pleased the Father of all Good to make known His mind and will to the children of men in these last days, and through the ministration of angels to restore the Holy Priesthood, etc., I, Brigham Young, Governor of the Territory of Utah, in response to the time honored customs of our forefathers at Plymouth Rock and with a heart filled with humility and gratitude to the fountain of all good, am desirous and do proclaim Thursday, the first day of January, 1852, as the day of praise and thanksgiving for the citizens of our peaceful territory."

Then followed a lengthy request that all good citizens abstain from everything that would mar or grieve the spirit of their Heavenly Father, wash their bodies, say their prayers, feed their families, and care for every living animal and creature, abstain from evil thinking, and acting, made merry in their hearts, singing songs of thanksgiving and praise, and spend the day doing good, sharing all their abundance with the poor, and do likewise from day to day while they shall live. Thereunto he sets his Seal.—Deseret News, December 27th, 1851.

Alma D. Chambers relates the following:

"On Thanksgiving there was usually a dance for children in the afternoon sponsored by the Sunday Schools. Either on the Sunday before or on Thanksgiving afternoon, a speaker related the story of the first Thanksgiving. Our dinner consisted of roast chicken, baked squash, pumpkin pie and vegetables. Gratitude was expressed by everyone. A dance at night concluded the day's festivities."

"So Providence for us, high, infinite,  
Makes our necessities its watchful task,  
Hearkens to all our prayers, helps our wants,  
And e'en if it denies what seems our right,  
Either denies because 'twould have us ask,  
Or seems but to deny, and in denying grants."  
—Leigh Hunt.

## New Year's Day

On New Year's Day, 1853, the Old Social Hall was dedicated and formally opened, not with a dramatic performance, but with a social and a



The Social Hall

ball. The program consisted of speeches and vocal and instrumental numbers. After the program picnic was served and then the evening was climaxed by a grand ball.

Heber C. Kimball, counselor to President Young called the assembly together and the dedicatory prayer was offered by Apostle Amasa Lyman. James Ferguson, soldier, lawyer, orator and actor, the leading man of the talented organization (Deseret Dramatic Association) delivered an eloquent address to those assembled, congratulating them on the completion of the first hall erected in Salt Lake City for the practice of the dramatic

### A New Year's Eve Ball

—WILL BE GIVEN IN THE—

--: Nineteenth Ward Hall --:

To which you and yours are cordially invited.  
Proceeds for the Benefit of the Sunday School.

CLIVE'S QUADRILLE BAND.

Tickets, 75 Cents. Extra Lady, 25 Cents.

—:COMMITTEE:—

W. J. Dean,	Alice Asper,	Jno. T. Edward,	Mary A. Solomon,
Bessie Dean,	A. Solomon,	Ella Nebeker,	Olive Derbidge.

—:FLOOR MANAGERS:—

W. J. DEAN,	J. T. EDWARD,
ALICE ASPER,	BESSIE DEAN.